Montana Department of Labor and Industry

Office of Legal Services

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March 21, 2007

P.O. BOX 1728 HELENA, MT 59624-1728

Representative Scott Mendenhall Chairman, Business and Labor Committee Capital Building, Room 172

RE: SB 258

Dear Chairman Mendenhall:

Following up on the Committee's March 20, 2007, hearing on Senator Shockley's Senate Bill 258 (deny professional and occupational licenses to illegal aliens), the Montana Department of Labor and Industry has been in contact with the federal Department of Homeland Security regarding the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements ("SAVE") program.

At the hearing, various speakers suggested that the Department of Labor and Industry could use the SAVE program to comply with the provisions of SB 258. However, according to Elizabeth Brown, the senior SAVE program specialist for the Department of Homeland Security, the SAVE system does not contain any information concerning United States citizens born in the United States, and does not include any information that pertains to identification numbers (social security numbers) issued by the Social Security Administration. Ms. Brown stated that SAVE only contains information about aliens (persons not born in the United States) and their immigration status. A copy of Ms. Brown's e-mail confirming that information is attached for your reference.

The current provisions of SB 258 require the Department of Labor and Industry to verify the uniqueness of all licensee and applicant social security numbers. The Department believes that it can not implement those provisions and also timely process license and renewal applications, because the federal government agencies with the ability to provide the verification do not make that information available to the Department for that purpose. If, however, Senator Shockley or the members of the House Business and Labor Committee want to try to amend the bill to provide for verification screening of alien licensees and applicants via the SAVE system, the Department is more than willing to work with the interested parties to craft appropriate amendments for the bill.

Rep. Scott Mendenhall

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On behalf of the Department of Labor and Industry, I will be glad to be available and answer questions when the Committee meets to take executive action on SB 258. In the meantime, if there is additional information that the Committee desires regarding this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct telephone number is 406.444.0280; my fax line is 406.444.1394; and my e-mail address is mcadwallader@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

MARK CADWALLADER,

staff attorney

MC:mc

enclosure: e-mail from Elizabeth A. Brown, Dept. of Homeland Security

c: Senator Jim Shockley (via hand delivery, c/o Senate Sergeant-at-Arts) Elizabeth A. Brown, Dept. of Homeland Security SAVE Overview Page 1 of 1

Cadwallader, Mark

From:

Brown, Elizabeth A [Elizabeth.Brown1@dhs.gov]

Sent:

Wednesday, March 21, 2007 10:43 AM

To:

Cadwallader, Mark; vhammil@mt.gov

Cc:

Bounds, David H; Schaming, Renee; Scales, Donna B; Albouari, Maria E

Subject:

SAVE Overview

Attachments: SAVE Overview.doc

Hello Mark/Vivian:

Per our conversation this morning, attached is the SAVE Program Overview. As stated, the SAVE Program verification process does not include the verification of social security numbers (this falls under the U.S. Social Security Administration) nor verification of American born citizens (birth status would be obtained from the respective state agency birth/vital statistics where the individual was born).

I hope this information is helpful to the Department of Labor of Montana. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact me or one of the copied addressees listed above at 202-272-8720.

Thank you,

Elizabeth A. Brown
Senior SAVE Program Specialist
Benefits Operations Branch
202-272-8720
Elizabeth.Brown1@dhs.gov

<<SAVE Overview.doc>>